

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 AID-05 EB-08 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00
HA-05 /121 W
-----093189 301434Z /41

R 291054Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9155
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6244

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PIN, PGOV, PEPR, AF, SO
SUBJ: AFGHAN-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 5170 (NOTAL), ISLAMABAD 6114 (NOTAL)

1. ON JUNE 29 POLCOUNS PASSED INFORMATION REFTTEL REGARDING PURGE OF
PARCHAMISTS FROM AFGHAN GOVERNMENT TO MFA DEPARTMENT HEAD
SHIVA, FOR WHOM IT WAS NEWS. HE WAS VERY INTERESTED AND NOTED
IT ALL DOWN.

2. POLCOUNS ALSO ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY RECENT INFORMATION
ABOUT LARGE NUMBERS OF SOVIET ARMED SECUTIY TROOPS (GIVING
PAKISTAN AS PLACE OF ACQUISITION THIS REPORT BUT CITING NO
SOURCES). SHIVA SAID THERE HAD BEEN A RECENT CABLE THAT 1,000
SOVIET ECONOMIC EXPERTS HAVE ARRIVED AND ARE WORKING ON PRO-
JECTS MAINLY IN KABUL AND HERAT AREAS. DESPITE SEVERAL QUES-
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TIONS, HE COULD NOT CONFIRM ANYTHING ABOUT SOVIET SECURITY
TROOPS, UNLESS THEY HAPPEN TO BE DISGUISED AS ECONOMIC
EXPERTS.

3. SHIVA ALSO PASSED ON RUMORS AND FOLLOWING BITS AND PIECES
OF INFOR-
MATION: (A) SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS IN HERAT AND KABUL HAVE

BEGUN TO APPEAR IN THEIR MILITARY UNIFORMS, WHICH WAS NOT THE CASE IN THE PAST, (B) SOME 2-300 RUSSIANS FROM THE THREE REPUBLICS NEIGHBORING AFGHANISTAN ARE IN THE PROCESS OF OCCUPYING POSTS IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES IN KABUL WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE VACANT BY RECENT DISMISSALS OF THEIR INCUMBENTS, (C) MANY SOVIET PLANES ARE ARRIVING LATE AT NIGHT IN KABUL-ONE WONDERS WHAT THEY ARE CARRYING, (D) GIVEN LARGE NUMBER OF ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND USSR SINCE THE COUP, ONE WONDERS HOW MUCH TIME WAS SPENT IN NEGOTIATING THEM. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AGREEMENTS ARE PREPARED IN ADVANCE AND ARE SIMPLY SIGNED BY THE AFGHANS. AMONG MAJOR PROJECTS AGREED UPON IN RECENT AGREEMENTS ARE 1. EXPLOITATION OF COPPER MINES, 2. OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION 3. BUILDING OF ANOTHER BRIDGE OVER RIVER WHICH FORMS BOUNDARY BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND THE SOVIET UNION.
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